



The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

AmeriCorps *State Formula Application Technical Assistance Workshop

March 29, 2006

100 N. Union Street

Montgomery, AL 36130

Governor's Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives

The GFBCI, formerly the Governor's Office on National and Community Service, was renamed and the mission broadened through Executive Order #21, June 2004. The GFBCI remains the State Service Commission for Alabama.

The Mission of the GFBCI

The mission of the GFBCI is to build the capacity of individuals and organizations to serve and transform the communities in which they live and to serve as a bridge between government and community.

The GFBCI Works to:

- (1) Increase an ethic of service and volunteerism in the State of Alabama,
- (2) Increase the capacity of faith and community-based organizations within the state to better compete for funding opportunities and
- (3) Increase collaboration among the people and organizations that are trying to meet the greatest need of our state.

The Primary Functions of the GFBCI:

- The Faith-Based and Community Initiative in Alabama
- Alabama State Service Commission
 - State AmeriCorps Programs (Formula and Competitive)
 - Planning Grants
- Disaster Preparedness and Response
 - Citizen Corps Program (funded by the Alabama Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Office of Domestic Preparedness)
 - Volunteer and Donation Coordination for the State Emergency Operations Plan/ESF #14
 - Grants Management of Hurricane Ivan and Katrina Relief funds (Home Depot through CNCS and the Singing for Change Foundation)
- Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Alabama Women's Commission

National Service and Volunteerism

■ Volunteering in America

"The health of a democratic society may be measured by the quality of functions performed by private citizens"—Alexis de Tocqueville

Alexis de Tocqueville, a French observer of American life in the early 1800's, noted that, more than any other people, Americans have always volunteered to help their neighbors and their communities. Our government encourages and supports this spirit of cooperation.

National Service and Volunteerism

Over two hundred years after de Tocqueville, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 created a new sense of civic pride, patriotism, and gratitude for America's freedoms.

The tragic events of 9-11 crystallized the spirit of active community involvement for many Americans. As a people, we are committed to the ideal of volunteering—looking to serve our nation and our fellow citizens in new and meaningful ways.

By giving of ourselves, we demonstrate our country's greatest source of strength: An active and engaged citizenry.

We Are a Country That Serves . . . In Many Meaningful Ways

(Source: www.cns.gov)



AmeriCorps

- Administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (Federal agency)
- Began in 1994 and commonly referred to as “the domestic Peace Corps”
- Comprised of AmeriCorps *State and National, VISTA and AmeriCorps *NCCC.
- The GFBCI administers AmeriCorps *State Competitive and Formula Program.

AmeriCorps VISTA

- AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) provides full-time members to nonprofit, faith-based and other community organizations, and public agencies to create and expand programs that ultimately bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty.
- Administered by the State CNCS Office-Birmingham, Alabama
- GFBCI VISTA Disaster Response and Recovery Project

AmeriCorps State

AmeriCorps*State works with Governor-appointed State Service Commissions to provide grants to public and nonprofit organizations that sponsor service programs around the country, including hundreds of faith-based and community organizations, higher education institutions, and public agencies.

Grants assist these groups in recruiting, training and placing AmeriCorps members to meet critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

(Source: www.americorps.gov)

AmeriCorps State (Formula)

- Annual Allocation of money and member slots (MSY's) based on population
- Current State Formula Programs
 - AmeriCorps Instructional Support Team, Butler County Board of Education, Greenville
 - Employers Child Care Alliance AmeriCorps, Child Care Resource Center, Opelika
 - Selma Digital Opportunity, City of Selma, Selma
 - UAB AmeriCorps, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham

AmeriCorps State (Competitive)

- Same as AmeriCorps State Formula but sub-grantees compete on the national level and are not a part of the State Formula portfolio.
- Birmingham READS AmeriCorps, Birmingham City Schools, Birmingham

AmeriCorps National

AmeriCorps*National provides grants directly to national public and nonprofit organizations that sponsor service programs, Indian tribes, and consortia formed across two or more states, including faith-based and community organizations, higher education institutions, and public agencies.

Grants assist these groups in recruiting, training and placing AmeriCorps members to meet critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

(Source: www.americorps.gov)

AmeriCorps NCCC

AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women age 18–24.

Members live on one of five campuses, located in Denver, Colorado; Charleston, South Carolina; Sacramento, California; Perry Point, Maryland; and Washington, D.C.

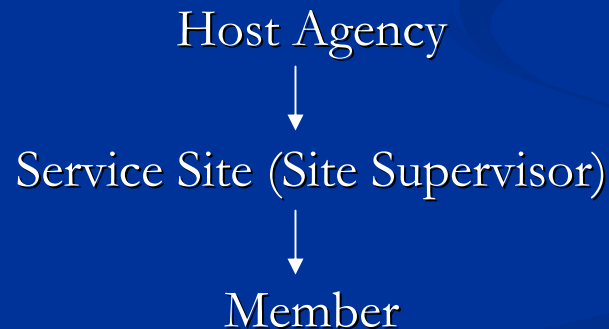
(Source: www.americorps.gov)

Is AmeriCorps Right For Your Agency?

- Review the www.americorps.gov web site and the AmeriCorps provisions
- Contact current AmeriCorps State Programs
- Start to critically analyze your organizational capacity to manage a complex federal grant
- Evaluate your capacity to recruit, interview and manage members.
- Are your community partnerships strong? Are these potential service sites for members?
- What is your current strategy for sustainability?

AmeriCorps State Program Structure

- Host Agency (legal applicant to the GFBCI)
- Service Sites (MOU between the Host Agency and the Service Site) – where members serve or a
- Scattered Site could be a regional or statewide project where members are placed in affiliate organizations across the region or state.



AmeriCorps State Funding Structure

Corporation for National and Community Service
(Federal Funding Agency)



The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community
Initiatives

(Grantee)



State AmeriCorps Programs

(Sub-Grantees)

Host Site

Host Site

Host Site

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Public agencies (local and state government)
- Private Non-Profit (faith and community based organizations)

AmeriCorps Formula Grant Process Timeline

(Dates are subject to change)

- **March 2006** Request for Proposal training
- **April 10, 2006** Letter of Intent to Apply from current State AmeriCorps sub-grantees/Concept Paper from new applicants due to the GFBCI
- **May 31, 2006** Grant application ***due in e-Grants*** and ***hard copy*** to GFBCI Office ***by 5pm***
- **Week of June 5-10, 2006** Staff and Peer Review of applications
- **June 15, 2006** Application returned to sub-applicants for rework: corrections, edits, etc (if necessary)
- **June, 2006** State Service Commission votes on applications
- **July 8, 2006** Final draft of application ***due in e-Grants*** and ***hard copy*** to GFBCI ***by 12 noon***
- **August 2, 2006** Application due to Corporation from the GFBCI/State Commission
- **September 2006** Sub-Applicants awarded for upcoming program year

Before You Decide to Apply...

- Thoroughly read the AmeriCorps Provisions (provided)
- AmeriCorps State Application Instructions
- Supplemental Requirements (25% of member's must be CERT trained and Program Directors must participate in GFBCI mandated trainings/events)

Approval Process

- Grants applications will be reviewed by the GFBCI Staff and a Peer Review Panel
- Reviewers utilize a standard review tool
- Recommendations are made to the GFBCI/State Service Commission for final funding decisions.
- Portfolio of State Formula Programs submitted to CNCS by the GFBCI for final approval.

What Makes this Application Unique?

- Member management, recruitment and retention – tracking service hours, payment of stipends and member development
- Flexibility of program design – single site, scattered site
- Complexity of implementation – service sites, site supervisors
- Rigorous reporting and accountability – reimbursement grant

Step 1: Concept Paper

- Limit to 2 pages double-spaced, 12 point font
- Clearly state primary purpose of program (education, disaster preparedness, prisoner re-entry etc), strategy for program implementation and partners, number of members requested, estimated budget request and sources of match.
- Can be e-mailed to cynthia.binkley@servealabama.gov or hard copy to attn: Cindy Binkley, 100 N. Union Street, Suite 134, Montgomery, AL 36130
- Must be received by COB Monday, April 10, 2006

Step 2: Application Development

- Submission of Full Application in e-grants and hard copy to GFBCI
 - E-Grants www.cns.gov go to e-grants and Start a New Application under the State AmeriCorps (Select Alabama) Application ID # 06AC064017
 - Hard Copy must still be submitted to the GFBCI with attachments (used for staff and peer review)
 - Application will be returned for rework after peer review for final edits

Application Instructions

The GFBCI will post today on the web site

www.servealabama.gov

- AmeriCorps State Formula Application Timeline
- The AmeriCorps State Formula Application Instructions (same as the State Competitive)
- Additional Application Instructions for Alabama

Resources

www.cns.gov go to AmeriCorps web site or
directly to www.americorps.gov

Go To: For Organizations
Tools, Training and Information

New Program Start Up-Guide

AmeriCorps Provisions

Sample Forms

Budget Development

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Questions and Answers

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